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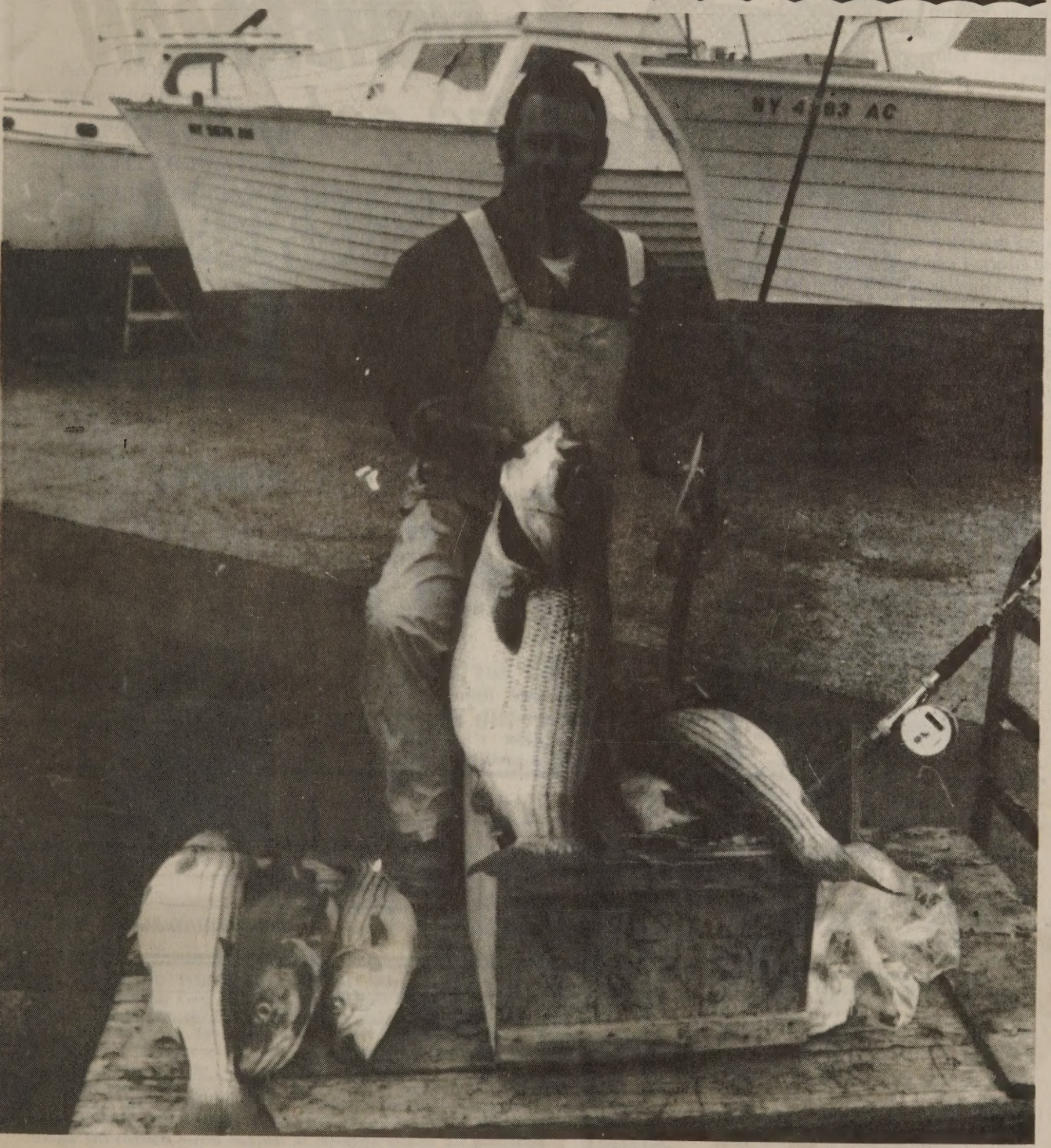
The Long Island FISHERMAN

NOVEMBER 27TH, 1973, ISSUE NO. 46



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOL. 8 NO. 46 NOVEMBER 27, 1973

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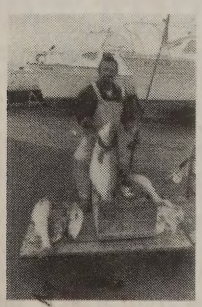

ABOUT THE COVER: Al Ristori with bass and cod taken in December, 1970. Read Al's article "Last Chance for Bass & Blues" on page 10.

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News Releases

SQUADRON ANGLERS APPOINTED TO FULL MEMBERSHIP IN U.S.A.T.T.

President Bill McFarland was recently informed that Squadron Anglers has been elevated from the status of Associate Member to full membership in the United States Atlantic Tuna Tournament. This change in status insures the club of the opportunity to participate in this most prestigious of salt water angling tournaments. Further details and implications for Squadron Anglers will be detailed by President McFarland at the next general meeting.

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A program designed to dramatically demonstrate that a fire can happen on your boat will be chaired by certified instructors of the U.S. Coast Guard and the State of New York. This free seminar, the last of the 1973 "Round Table" series, will be held on December 6th, at 8:00 P.M. at the Bayside Yacht

(Continued on page 21.)

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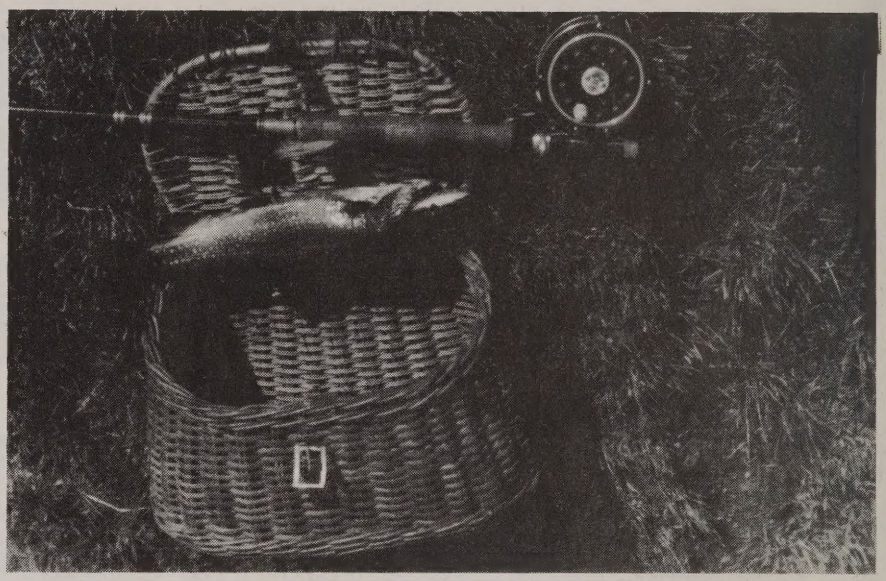
Native or Holdover?

by Don Vetter



Dark coloration and distinct markings indicate this brookie has resided in his stream for some time. But — is he native or holdover?

Now that the trout season is safely behind us, I feel I may take up the great debate as to survivability of trout on Long Island with impunity. Bear in mind that it is brook trout we are discussing here; that browns survive on the Island, and often live to a respectable old age and prodigious size, is beyond question, though whether there is any natural reproduction or they must rely on massive annual stocking, is a moot point.

Back in April of this year, Rich Reina, Glenn Voparil and I were looking over a series of articles on Catskill trout fishing by Leonard Baum. In Part I (which was published in the May 3rd of L.I.F., Vol. 8 #16), Mr. Baum made the statement to the effect that, with the exception of a few sea-run browns, Long Island is populated entirely with "hatchery fodder," and that to fish for "wild" trout, one must head for upstate waters. I took issue with this assertion which implied all Catskill trout were "wild" and all Long Island trout "hatchery," citing the April/May issue of "The Conservationist," in which associate aquatic biologist William H. Kelly pointed out that Catskill streams receive heavy stockings each year, and that only 8% of the trout taken from them could be classified as wild fish. Rich supported the Baum statement, taking the position that stocked fish which holdover from one year to the next could also be considered wild, and that they just don't hold on Long Island. Glenn wisely chose to remain neutral.

Without becoming didactic, or indulging in excessive hair splitting, I would like to explore the whole issue in depth, since many trout fishermen attach a great deal of importance to the origin of the fish they catch. The first problem to be solved is, how to differentiate a hatchery brookie from one either naturally spawned in the water he inhabits, or a resident of that water for a sufficient time as to be indistinguishable from a native. Size is of little help in this endeavor; The Department of Environmental Conservation has stocked some pretty big brook trout from time to time, and wild fish come in all sizes as well.

Exterior coloration and markings are the first consideration in this little test; the hatchery trout usually displays a lighter hue, with less distinct markings, than wild trout. The color of the flesh gives another indication, as it is determined in a large measure by the trout's diet. The hatchery trout will have flesh tone ranging from white to pale pink, while the wild fish display a darker, orange-red flesh, when you clean him. The exception to this rule would be liver-fed hatchery fish, which also have dark flesh coloration, but it is well to remember that New York hatcheries have not used liver for feeding their charges in a coon's age. Trout quickly assume both the colorations and markings of wild fish when released; for example, fish stocked in April would be indistinguishable from natives by summer. Therefore, this test is useful only in determining whether a trout is relatively fresh from the hatchery, or has dwelt in the water from which you caught him for some length of time.

The brook trout is relatively short-lived as fish go, with an average life span of but three years. This limited span accounts for the brookie's smaller size, as compared with other, longer-lived trout, for a fish continues to grow throughout his life, contingent upon available food supply. Unlike mammals, fish do not die of starvation when denied sufficient quantities of edibles, but their growth rate is effected; they become stunted. There are tiny headwater brooks upstate and in Vermont where native brookies spawn, mature, and live out their allotted live span without exceeding a length of six inches or so, due to an insufficient food supply.

The growth rate of a trout (or any fish for that matter) may be determined by head, tail and fin size, relative to the body. A trout with a small head, tail and fins, but well developed and deep through the body, has experienced rapid growth that would indicate an abundant food supply. I recall catching a twelve inch brookie from Swan Lake in Patchogue, some years back, and was struck by the fish's unusual appearance. Slender as a pickerel in the body, he sported a head (replete with a huge mouth), tail and fins which would have been appropriate to a three pounder. His flesh, when I cleaned him, proved to be of that deep, orange/red hue of a fish which has lived in the water he was

taken from for a considerable time. The poor condition of this particular trout, and the very low growth rate indicated thereby, would tend to indicate the unsuitability of Swan Lake as brook trout water.

It is interesting to note that I have taken brown trout from Swan Lake as large as twenty inches, and they were always fat and well fed in appearance; in fact, any trout of twelve inches or better caught here will invariably be a brown. This is a good indication of the brown's adaptability and survivability in marginal waters, doubly striking when you consider that only something like 5% of the trout stocked here are browns — put in the water to make good a shortage of the brook trout which are the primary trout the Conservation Department stocks in Swan Lake.

Compounding his short life span, there are two other factors which contribute to the high mortality rate of brookies. First of all, he requires cold, clear, free flowing water with a higher oxygen content than any other trout. Second, the brook trout is far more unwary than the brown, and much more vulnerable to angling; even wild brookies are relatively unsophisticated and not at all selective in their feeding habits; in short, they are just plain easy to catch.

On the upper reaches of the west branch of the Connetquot River in Oakdale, where the stream narrows to a mere trickle through the boggy ground on the portion of the Bayard Cutting Aboretum through which it runs, there is a small population of brook trout. Although these dark-bodied, beautifully marked, red fleshed trout appear fat and healthy, they seem to all run in the five to six inch size range. It has always been my belief that here was an indigenous population of brookies, spawned and maintained naturally, with no assistance from the hand of man. My theory was pretty well confirmed in a conversation with Al Keller of The Department of Environmental Conservation, when he informed me that, to the best of his knowledge, trout of this size were definitely not stocked fish. In this location at least, brook trout are living and breeding unaided by hatchery supplements; truly native, as in the days before the coming of the white man to Long Island.

Aside from isolated incidences such as this, the bulk of brook trout which exhibit the characteristics of native rather than hatchery fish are more than likely holdovers from some prior year's stocking. By the time a brookie has survived a year in the heavily fished waters of Long Island, he has "earned his speckles," and may be referred to as a wild trout without fear of contradiction, even if he did start life in the concrete pools of a hatchery.

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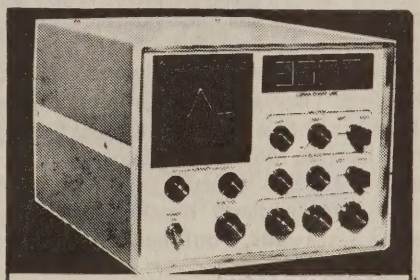

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WHITING FEVER!

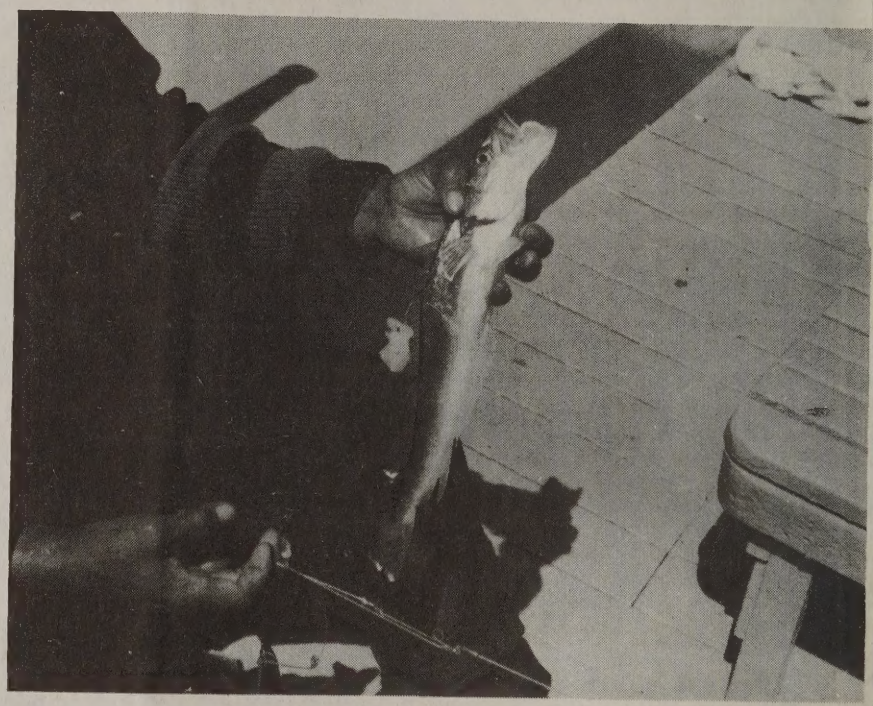
by Vlad Evanoff

You stand there by the pier rail on a cold, bone-chilling night with the wind whistling around you: your hands are stiff and you can barely hold the rod. The pier is so crowded that anglers stand shoulder to shoulder trying to get a bit of space along the rail from which they can let down a line into the water below. Every so often there's a shout, and when you look into the direction of the sound you see an angler lift his rod and swing a slim, silvery fish over the rail and on to the pier boards.

The fish he had just caught was a whiting, also called a silver hake or frostfish. They are true winter panfish, and when they appear in numbers they literally pave the bottom of the shallow, inshore waters where they can be caught from piers, breakwaters and jetties, seawalls, bulkheads, docks, bridges and boats.

The whiting has a greyish and copper-brown back, silvery sides and white belly. It has a very large head and mouth which is equipped with many sharp, needle-like teeth. Most whiting caught close to shore run just under a pound or a bit heavier. In deep water fish up to three or four pounds are sometimes caught. They are supposed to reach eight pounds, but such big whiting are rare.

There are different kinds of whiting found in various parts of the world. The species we catch is found from the Grand Banks to the Bahamas. They may range close to shore in Canada or New England even during the summer months, but farther south they come inshore mostly in the winter and spring. They have been found from a few inches of water near shore to depths of 1,800 feet or more.



Whiting are usually caught on multiple hook rigs having anywhere from two to five hooks.

The real run of whiting usually begins in New York and New Jersey waters in November and lasts into December and sometimes January. Party boats often catch them in deeper water all winter long. However, like most salt-water species, they tend to be cyclic, and some years they appear inshore in large numbers while in other years they tend to be scarce. The fishing is more dependable in the deeper, offshore waters where they usually show up each fall, winter and spring. It seems that they don't come into shallow water near shore unless there is plenty of bait such as spearing, sand eels or other small fish which they feed on.

When they do run inshore, a good place to try for them is the Steeplechase Pier at Coney Island. Another good pier to try is the Recreation Fishing Pier at Long Branch, New Jersey. Most of the regulars who fish the piers arrive early to grab favored spots along the rail. The late comers have to settle for less favorable positions. Usually the deeper water near the end of the pier is best.

Other favored spots are near the lights on the pier. The light attracts baitfish to the surface where it shines on the water and this in turn draws the whiting, which can often be seen darting after the bait. Some anglers even bring their own lights and suspend them under a pier or dock to attract the fish.

You can use almost any kind of

(Continued on page 13.)

TRAPPING IN N.Y. STATE

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE BEAVER IS THE MOST FAMOUS FURBEARER AND HIS QUEST LEAD TO THE EXPLORATION OF THE U. S.

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IT IS TRADITIONAL TO OPEN THE SEASON IN TIME FOR RURAL BOYS TO GET IN SOME 'RAT TRAPPING DURING THE DECEMBER CHRISTMAS VACATION. BEST FURS ARE LATER.

AN OTTER WATCHES A BABYLON BOY, PAUL VAN THOMME, SET HIS TRAP LINE.

Big City Crows

PART II by Dick Mermon

A disked corn field is a good place to set decoys, but you must also know the bird's habits.

Something was wrong, they must have thought, because a minute later, a single crow came out of the trees over towards the decoys and looked them over. Staying out about seventy yards from the decoys, he growled a few protests to the Judases on the ground and waited for a reply or some kind of movement.

I popped the call into my mouth and gave him a little assurance to the fact that all was safe, but for some reason I did not convince him. I could see that there was still some hesitation to his flight in decoying in. This was probably one of the old scout crows that had been around these parts and knew what was going on.

But I did convince several others. From a distance, the crows that were settling in the trees, watching the goings on, came to life and took to wing — right for the decoys. Without hesitation they came looking for a fight. They beat their wings in the air, and made all kinds of fighting crow talk. The old timer turned to them but it was too late; Ted and I were up and on them. Our guns belched out the shot and two more crows went groundward. Ted swung another and hit him as he was trying to put distance between himself and us, trying to amend the fact that he had made a mistake: it cost him his life, for he too dropped.

Things then slowed down for a little while. The crows started to group up in the next field as if to say that they knew we were there and they were not about to pay any attention to us. Still the food was where we had set up, and the crows knew it. The smart crows in the flock sat in the distant trees and looked over the situation. By the amount of crows gathering in the distance, I could see that the big flights were about to start coming in from all angles.

Hand calling these crows to within shooting distance was no problem. They responded to feed call at first, then when things got hot for the crows, the switch was to the fighting call. This drove the crows into a frenzy and from that time on, until the sun set, the gun barrels were never cool. When calm did come, smoke and feathers settling, Ted and I picked up one hundred ninety-six dead crows and put them all into four gunny sacks. This was part of the rules of shooting at the farm...picking up the dead carcasses after the shoot and taking them to the nearest dump.

Each year thereafter, Ted and I, or one of my other decrowers, shoot the same area at least five times in the season, or about twice a month. To this day, the crows come to this farm to group up in the afternoon, and the farmer still plants crops in the same field. Man has a habit as well as do the crows. When this farmland is sold and houses are built on this site, the crows will move to another field near-by and go right on gorging themselves, as always.

Last year, the crows had to move their roost slightly to a new location due to a few new houses built during the summer. They only moved a few hundred yards from where the original roost was, but the flyways and staging area were the same; these did not change because the fields and estates

Some crows are black and white, called "piebalds".

of old remained accessible to them for food and protection.

For several weeks in November of 1970, I watched the flyways, grouping areas, and the new location of the roost. During this period of observation, the crows once again produced a pattern as in every previous year. Except for a few minor changes from day to day due to weather conditions, the crows unfolded their habit pattern.

The last week of November, the crows were in full migration on their southward treck for the winter. Long Island is a stopover for the migration of part of the Hudson Valley Flyway and, at this time of the year, one can look out over Long Island Sound at Little Neck Bay and watch the crows migrating across the Sound onto the Island. If the weather and food are in the crows' favor, they will spend more time then usual there. If the weather becomes too severe and food is quickly depleted, the crows will move on earlier, leaving only part of the migration or flock. This is the time of the year I wait for on Long Island, for this migration brings forth hordes of crop menacing crows. This is the perfect time to do the job on them.

Ronnie Tartaglia and I set out for a crack at these crows on the last Thursday of November. We had previously built a brush blind in a washout on the side of the field so it would blend with the surrounding terrain. We used oak branches, which still held their leaves, and bayberry brush, and the blind looked as if it had grown there for years. After slightly touching up the hiding place from which we were to shoot, the Judas decoys were set out. Seventy ground decoys were set up and nine were placed into the trees nearby.

The reason for so many decoys on the ground was to show the oncoming birds that there was a big feed on. The tree decoys once again served as sentries of the flock on the ground. After these two major parts of the crow setup were completed, time for relaxation and waiting for the afternoon flights to start was at hand.

It didn't take very long for the crows to spot the decoys as before; in they came, without hesitation, and with no calling. Thinking that they were joining the group for the afternoon luncheon, Ron and I served them a report of our guns. The action did not let up until the sun completely set, which was three hours later.

When the shooting and flights did stop, there were dead crows laying all around us. The combination of the decoys placed well, hand calling, comouflage suits, blind, portable recorder or phonograph (at times), and the right place at the right time, produced a kill of two hundred sixteen crows upon pick-up. Tired from shooting and calling, this dead crow pick-up chore was a tough one but this is the name of the game and part of the rules enforced by the property owner. Abiding by all the rules that were given produced a friendly relationship with the farmer and provided a place to shoot each year, past and future.

Crow shooting localities on Long Island are dwindling fast, but there are still several places open to the decrower in which to bust a few if he or she (as it may be) so desire. Each year past, crows have migrated onto Long Island and, as before, the same spots produced an abundance of crows to our guns.

Permission to do the shooting is the main factor, and the how-to will come after. Each year I approach the land owner or the leaser of the property and lay my cards on the table,

(Continued on page 11.)

Last Chance for Bass and Blues

by Al Ristori

With wintry winds shaking the trees outside my window and a weather forecast of temperatures dropping to 25-30 degrees tonight, this seems to be an excellent time for a warning about the rapidly approaching end of the season. Bass and blues are no longer abundant, and the end can come, suddenly, anytime after mid-November; you'd better figure on getting your "licks" in now!

Long Island striper fishing usually hits its peak in early November when few anglers are prepared to take advantage of it. Many have hung their rods for the season and even the most enthusiastic arranged their vacations earlier so as to take advantage of good weather. As a result, you'll rarely find crowded conditions at favorite spots on weekdays, and even weekends may be bearable. In fact, your biggest problem may well be weather. The north wind seems to roar constantly and it's a lot colder than the October winds. Nevertheless, you're almost sure to get a number of Indian summer days, plus a few that are marginal enough to permit fishing.

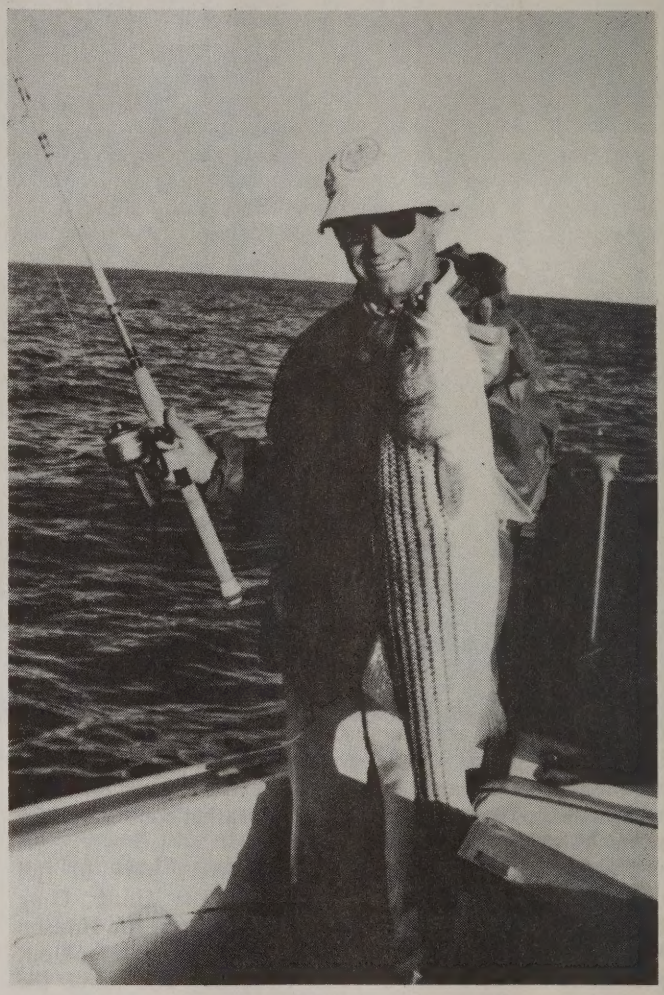
It used to be that bluefish were a long forgotten species by November. However, in recent years, they've been staying later and later, creating problems for daytime striper fishermen. Even in mid-November, favorite jigging grounds, such as The Race and Plum Gut, are likely to be chock full of choppers. They attack jigs and bait so rapidly that the slower moving bass don't have much of a chance to get at them.

The same problem exists for the trolling fleet at Montauk early in the month, and for the Sandy Hook armada into at least mid-month. Last year I loaded up on blues (along with a few bass) in Plum Gut on November 12. The next day it was picky in the Gut so I headed out to Pigeon Rip where they hit 7 ounce jigs as fast as they were dropped. These fish were of mixed sizes (7-14 lbs.).

On the South Shore, bluefish populated Cholera Banks and other famous bottom fishing grounds well into November. Most party boats actually quit fishing for them due to lack of patronage rather than lack of choppers. Even in mid-November, trolling tubes off Sandy Hook was likely to produce a catch of more than 50% bluefish. My records indicate that they were abundant in the New York Harbor area right up to November 19. At that point we were hit with a severe northwester that not only blew out the blues but also put a premature halt to the bass fishing (at least for big fish).

Just how late the bass fishing will go is mere speculation at the present time. Not infrequently, it's good at Thanksgiving time and Al Urban once caught them right up to New Years at Montauk! Indeed, you only have to go back to 1970 for an example of a late season. Fishing was actually quite poor throughout most of the fall season at Montauk that year. It was spring-like until mid-November, when we finally got a good northwester. A tremendous run developed that peaked on Thanksgiving Day.

By the weekend, however, many schools were spotted traveling south along the beach and trolling results at Shagwong and the Point were poor. I had just about written off the season at that point. Yet, when a couple of "bluebird" days developed during the first week in December, I felt constrained to give Carl Darenberg a call at Montauk Marine Basin. Carl said the magic words, "You'd better get out here!"



Roy Terrill (Managing Editor of Sports Illustrated) is proud of 16 pound, light tackle bass taken from the author's Mako 22 on Montauk's south shore.

The next morning I arrived with Andy Gennaro, a top notch New Jersey fly fisherman but definitely not a rough water sailor. With a strong, southwest wind blowing most of the time, Andy was almost continuously seasick. Nevertheless, we enjoyed fine bass fishing for fish that ran anywhere from schoolies to twenty pounds or so. Andy even managed to hold his head in the boat long enough to boat a 36¾ lb. bass. That certainly wasn't the biggest bass of the

season at Montauk, but it probably took the honors for December!

In addition to the abundant bass, we caught cod of all sizes, by both trolling and jigging. There was lots of bird activity on Shagwong (where we were also able to plug some bass) and we never had a chance to check out the Point or South Shore.

The December fishing was pretty well finished off by a violent northwester that sent the temperature plummeting from 60 degrees to the low teens in one day. We even had a little snow the next day! However, that December experience has proven the "never give up" theory of fall bass fishing to me. If the weather is decent — give it a try!

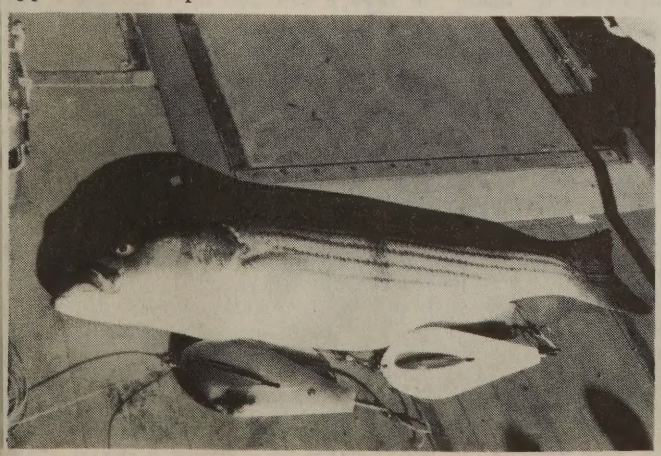
Where to look for November bass? For the most part they will be in the same areas they've frequented all season. There will be a schooling effect though, as temperatures drop, and these fish will move into prime feeding stations along with schools migrating from more northerly points. You're liable to encounter such moving, feeding schools throughout Long Island Sound, but your best bet is to intercept them in areas where bait will be concentrated.

At the eastern end of Long Island this would include places such as Plum Gut, The Race, Gardiner's Island, Shagwong Reef and Montauk Point. On the South Shore you're once again in a "moving school" proposition. Unless they find a concentration of bait, the fish are apt to keep right on moving to the New York Harbor area.

November can produce really outstanding fishing in the murky Harbor waters. Exact location of the schools may vary from day to day, but you'll be able to keep up with it by watching the movements of the "sharpshooters". Spots to check include Flynn's Knoll, Romer Shoals, West Bank Light, and the Coast Guard Station at Sandy Hook.

Bass in the twenty to fifty pound class are the objects of those trolling long tubes or bunker spoons. However, other anglers prefer drifting worms for schoolies. Indeed, even some party boats switch over to that form of fishing in November if the smaller fish are abundant (as they should be this fall). The Tin Can Grounds can be a particular hot spot for these fish.

The full moon occurs before mid-month and should produce some memorable night fishing, if the weather permits. This is the time of year when you can safely say "They've got to be there!" I wouldn't hesitate to guarantee big bass at favorite night fishing spots, but I'm not even sure if I'll get a night when the conditions are bearable enough to fish them. This full moon will probably be "it" for this season's major fishing, so take advantage of the night fishing opportunities it presents.

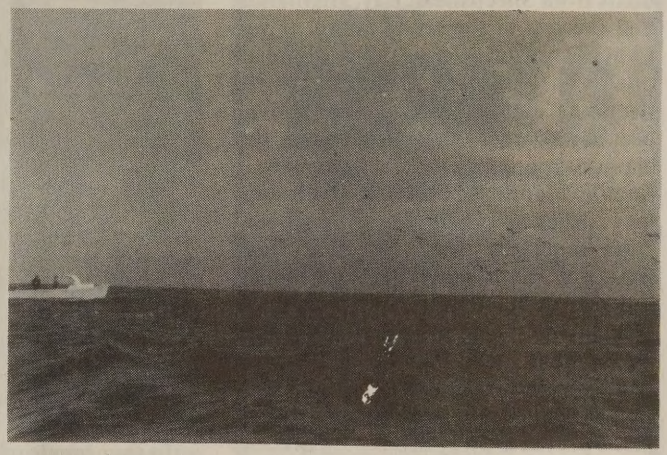


Even 20 pounders go for bunker spoons in the fall.

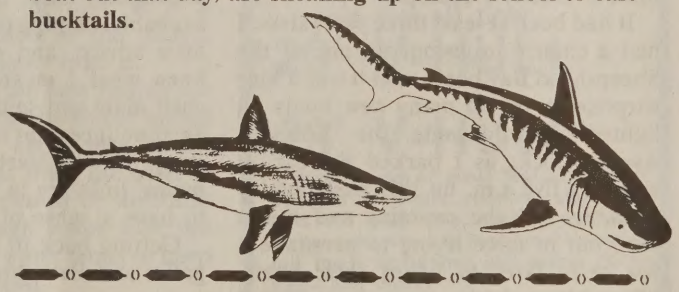
I found the October night fishing at Montauk to be quite good (most fish in the 20's, with a few up to 46 pounds) and expect similar action in November.

By the way, most of the big fish I caught last month were tagged with American Littoral Society tags. Fish hard this month and try to get one back for me. Ironically, with all the bass I've tagged, not one has been recaptured. Yet, I tagged just one for a French engineer (who I took fishing at Montauk in 1971) and the fish was recaptured at Sandy Hook this summer!

Fall fishing prospects look great — so don't hesitate. If the weather looks half decent, give it a try. At least as far as this year's bass and bluefishing is concerned, there may be no tomorrow!



Rough seas and hundreds of feeding birds — December action on Shagwong Reef. These anglers (the only other boat out that day) are sneaking up on the school to cast bucktails.



BIG CITY CROWS

[Continued from page 8.]

exactly what I want to do and how it will be done, and the reason for shooting crows (if it is the first time on the property).

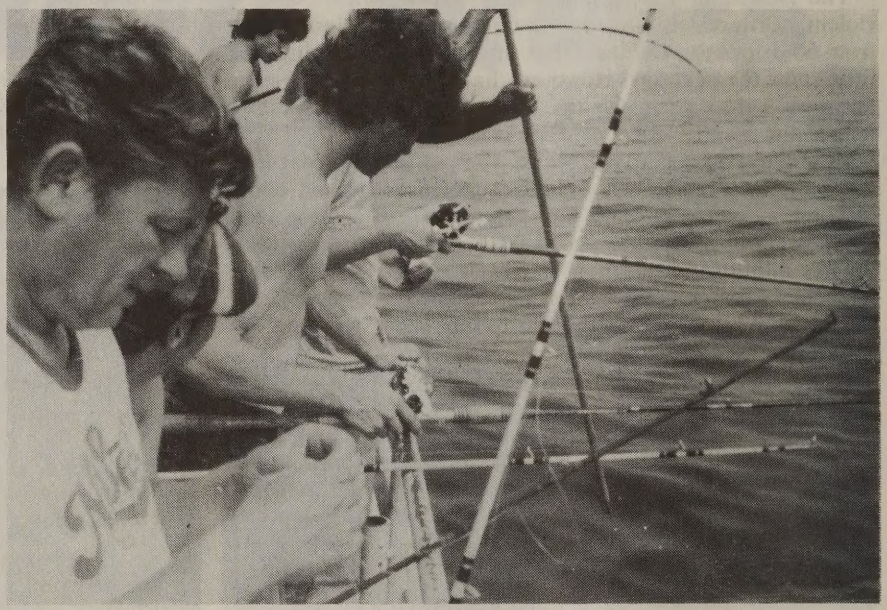
When everything is agreed upon, I ask if there may be any other rules that the property owner will or might have about shooting. Most of the time, the owners hesitate to grant permission until I explain how the shooting is done, when it is done, and the safety precautions taken by myself and my shooting partners. There were some requirements that I found while crow shooting, not only here on Long Island, but everywhere I hunted them. They were: no early morning shooting to disturb the public, generally no shooting on Sundays due to the horseback riding in most of the areas, and cleaning up afterwards.

Even with all the rules that abound, my shooting companions and I have had several enjoyable shoots each year, and we still look forward to the coming years ahead. As long as there are open fields, estates that can be hunted upon and people that will listen to the crow shooters part, the "Big City Crows" will be there for some time to come.

Gaffing A Beer Can

by Don Millus

A lot of fishermen would have said he was nuts. Here we were, chumming for blues along with a few hundred other boats from Sheepshead Bay, Highlands, and the rest of the Jersey shore. It was Labor Day, hot, sticky, and with the air quality just this side of poisonous; the fleet was out in force picking up an occasional bluefish. But there was this captain trying to sink a gaff into a floating aluminum beer can which some lazy fishermen had flung overboard from a nearby boat. Not that there wasn't a lot of other garbage thrown into the ocean that day, but this one skipper had made sure that the people on his boat knew that he had a huge bag just for their empty Rheingold and Coke cans. No big deal about it either, just a part of his way of keeping his boat and the ocean presentable. Other skippers and mates could do worse than imitate Danny's example.



In that jungle of rods Pete is about to gaff a bluefish. A mate's work is never easy if he takes it seriously.

It had been at least three years since I had a chance to go out on one of the Sheepshead Bay boats, and it was a nice surprise to see so many new boats all lighted up alongside the Emmons Avenue docks as I parked my car. It was only five a.m. on this past holiday Monday, but the captains and mates were out in force trying to persuade a few extra fares to board their boats. "Big blues here, next boat out." "Porgies, lots of porgies." I held my thumb and forefinger about five inches apart and asked whether the fish were any bigger. "Oh we're getting a lot of nice ones." That night I checked the day's catch and there were porgies no bigger than mid-August snappers. Well, that's show business. No boat can promise fish, but the skippers shouldn't be afraid to say that the fish have been running small or biting slowly. In the long run this kind of honesty will bring back customers, but some boats just like to get everybody out on them once.

Later that day I spent a few minutes chatting with the skipper of one of the bigger boats and I mentioned the problem of mates and service that affects every open-boat operation. Of course, some mates give the fishermen more time than others do. It isn't just a question of gaffing fish, but of untangling lines, making sure bait is available, helping out the novices with a little advice, and so on. The captain knew what I meant. He turned to his chief mate and said, "We always make an announcement to the customers first thing: don't start fishing until the mates' lines are in the water." It helps to have a sense of humor.

Getting back to Danny the beer can gaffer and Pete, his mate (I don't want to embarass them by mentioning their last names or boat), they really made sure that the passengers had a good trip, as far as it was in their power. Pete had his own rod in the water for all of fifteen minutes, and the rest of the time he was untangling lines, chumming, and gaffing and unhooking fish. Every once in a while he made sure that the refuse bag wasn't overflowing, and he took the time himself to toss his soda

A lot of litter in the water . . . and on the land.

cans into the bag rather than the Atlantic. The captain left the chumming only to answer the radio and gaff an occasional fish. The frequent yells of the young passengers, even when they didn't have a fish on, were all checked out just to make sure that the gaff was ready when needed.

Danny's politeness to the other boats was another strong point. After an unsuccessful drift he moved into the fleet, which had anchored up, and he made darn sure that he didn't disturb anyone else's chum streak. After we were anchored for a half-hour (and Danny had been chumming himself all that time, coaxing up an occasional, diffident blue), a big boat anchored less than fifty yards off our stern and started taking advantage of our chum line. Not one angry word. In fact, when a small boat trolled through our slick (and hooked a blue in it, too) Danny's only comment was that they really wouldn't scare the fish and, besides, it showed the fish were still there.

Our final score? About twenty blues for about the same number of fishermen. Some were skunked, of course, but you can't say the skipper didn't give it a good try, even staying out an extra hour to try to put a few more fish on board. Most of the passengers will probably remember it as a so-so trip for bluefish, but I'll remember it for the image of a man gaffing a beer can. An attitude like that has to help the fishing business.

Back at the dock, Pete didn't have any fish to sell; many of the other crews did. But he did have a bigger bag of refuse to leave for the collectors than did a number of the more popular party boats. I wonder where their beer cans went? As I put my boots and my only blue in the car crowds of tourists were running from dock to dock checking out the prices of the fish being sold on the boats. All Pete had was a boat to clean. Maybe that's the way it should be!

WHITING FEVER

(Continued from page 6.)

tackle to catch whiting, and many anglers often do. You'll see rods heavy enough to catch tuna and light fresh-water spinning rods thin enough to catch trout. I guess the ideal outfit would be a medium weight spinning rod about eight or nine feet long with a spinning reel filled with fifteen or twenty pound test line. The reason for so heavy a line is because you usually have to use a sinker from three to six ounces, depending upon the tide. You may also hook two or three whiting at the same time and have to lift them from the water.

When fishing from a small boat, jetty or bulkhead close to the water you can use lighter tackle, lines and sinkers, and here the lightest spinning rods can be used. Some anglers fishing close to the water like to use bamboo or glass poles and just yank the fish in on a short line.

A multiple hook rig is best for whiting because of the tendency of these fish to travel in schools. So anglers usually use from two to four hooks tied equally spaced above the sinker. These can be 3/0, 4/0 or 5/0 long-shanked hooks.

Various baits can be used for whiting, but the most popular is the spearing or silversides. A small spearing is hooked through the eyes; larger ones can be cut in half and you can run the hook into the bait twice so it stays on. Another good bait is a sand eel, which can also be cut in half if it is a big one. Also used are strips cut from herring, mackerel or other fish. Anglers fishing from party boats often bait up with skimmer clams or pieces of squid.

The whiting itself can be used for bait. After you catch the first fish cut it into narrow strips about three inches long and use these for bait. It is a tougher bait than most of the others, and the whiting usually take it.

As a general rule the best fishing for whiting takes place on the colder nights when the water is calm near shore. Thus, it pays to wait until the wind is from the north, northwest or west and not too strong. Rough water with too much surf and dirty water tends to keep them away from shore.

Whiting are fairly easy to catch in large numbers when they are running well: in no time at all you'll be filling up a bushel basket or potato sack with these succulent panfish. And — they make terrific eating when fried. Whiting can also be frozen, smoked or pickled for future use. With the high price of meat (or even fish) these days it pays to get whiting fever and go out and catch plenty of whiting to eat during the rest of the winter.

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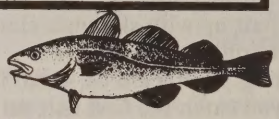

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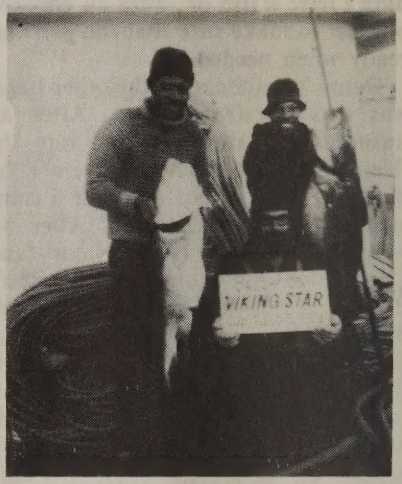

The Nov. 20th pool winners aboard the Viking Star: John Donohue, Jr., left, of Roosevelt, with a 58 lb. cod; Clemence Aris of Jamaica, right, with a 48 lb. cod.

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South Shore Report

MONTAUK

The codfishing has been slow the past couple of days due to bad weather, however, it seems to have moved the fish closer inshore, minimizing the dogfish population.

Capt. Les Behan of the Peconic Queen told us that he has been fishing the Frisbees, under the "Guns," Montauk rips and Cartwright for the best fishing. Shark Ledge and Great Eastern have also been good producers for the larger fish. Most of the fish have been in the under 10 lb. class, with some striped bass being taken while fishing close inshore.

SHINNECOCK

Mickey Altenkirch held out good hopes for better codfishing on open bottom. Larry Furman had 102 codfish, most of which ran about 5 or 6 lbs. A couple of these cod went up to 15 lbs. Larry caught the fish in 55 ft. of water on open bottom. Several other boats have been catching codfish rather regularly this past week. A few small striped bass were taken in the inlet. "Rats" is what Mickey called them so maybe light tackle would be appropriate. Flounders are in both the canal and Shinnecock Bay.

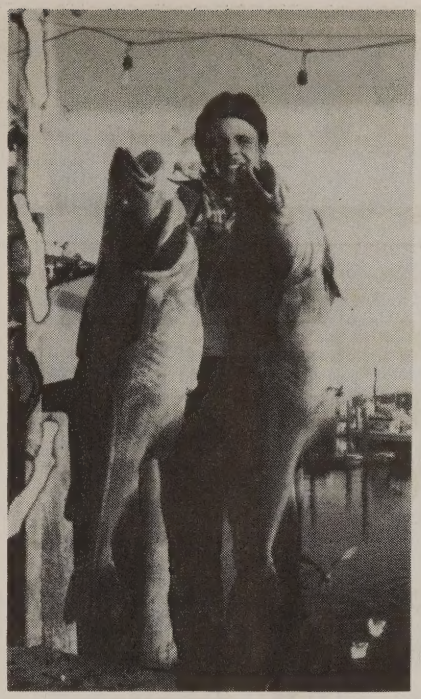
MORICHES

Chet of B & B Tackle reports codfish are being taken on open bottom in 50 or 60 ft. of water. The Moriches Anglers Reef, about 3 to 4 miles southwest of the inlet, is also producing codfish. Most of the cod are still fairly small (running up to 10 lbs.) but Mrs. Singler, of Bellport Hotel, had a 31 lb. cod. Chumming will produce better catches for those who can find it. Striper activity has been nil this past week.

MASTIC BEACH

Keenan's Fishing Station reported flounder fishing has been both good and poor. Just as in the fairy tale of the little girl, when it is good it is very good and when it it is poor it is horrid.

Pat Cole of Moriches Bait & Tackle said the flounder catches were scattered throughout the area. Worms were in short supply so Pat suggested dyed clams as an alternative. Although worms produce better, respectable catches can be had with small pieces of clam.



Walter Wirshup of Nesconset holds two of the twelve cod, 49 and 48½ lbs., he caught aboard the Peconic Queen II on Nov. 20.

CAPTREE

The Capt. Ben Litwin had fair catches of cod on the wrecks. On Friday, Smitty Smolensky took a 31 lb. cod and on Saturday Mrs. Homland took a 29 pounder. Sunday's winner was a gentleman named Joe and he took a cod of 31 lbs. The Capt. Litwin had an up and down weekend, with Friday and Sunday being good while Saturday was poor.

The Captree Overlook Pier, along with the docks at Oak Beach, have been providing the shorebound angler with good sport on flounder. No particular tide is best, however, patience is a must. Some minor striped bass activity occurred near the Coast Guard Station, however, the information was scanty and inconclusive.

Capt. Richie Westerlind of the Capt. Richie had good catches all through the bay area this past weekend. The fall flounders, full of roe, have come in. Anglers have been waiting for these fish for the past few weeks. Capt. Richie says that although the flounders will be late, the stores are on the boat and the fish are biting well, so come on down.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle reports flounders are still in at Fox Creek, State Channel and Grass Island. Codfish have been caught on open bottom in 90 ft. of water with some going up to 30 lbs. The dogfish population has cut down somewhat. The offshore wrecks are now producing a little better than they have been previously.

AMITYVILLE

Good weather, plenty of fishermen and cooperative flounders all came together to give most fishermen a satisfying weekend. West Island, Wanser's Cut, Gilgo and Unqua Point all produced flounders of good size, said George Combs. Good fishing was had from the surf at Cedar Beach and Jones Inlet jetties by surfmen using two ounce Atom poppers. Bucktails seem to be the better lure though. Deep water of 70 to 90 ft. is the best bet for codfishing, which is improving. The size of the codfish ranges from 5 to 20 lbs.

WANTAGH

Frank Hecker of Causeway Bait & Tackle reported herring are still being caught. The flounder fishing is still good but Frank advises to try the flats as well as the holes. Bait can be a problem so before you go out check that bait is available. Of course, skimmer clams are always a good standby. Use the lips and edges as well as cutting them into strips.

MERRICK

Flounders are still holding up for most fishermen. The fish are not the biggest, however, they are fat enough for filleting. Charley Erdmann, along with his nephew, Frank, Jr., fished Fundy Bay and came in with 40 flounder.

Ron Tartaglia of the Whaleneck Marina also reports that some of the members of the East Bay Anglers went out over the weekend and came back with about 8 cod. One cod went about 20 lbs. The members of the club reported they had no problem with dogfish.

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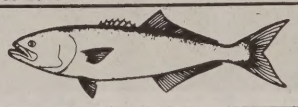

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NY Bight Report

Twelve bass from 36 to 48 lbs. caught aboard Bill Homes "Four Daughters" on Lupo Danny trolling plugs in September. Anglers, left to right: Red Blumlien, Bill Homes, Phil Siciliano and Don Musso, all of Queens.

FREEPORT

A fair weekend was had by the Capt. Jack's Star Stream. Capt. Richie Kessinger reported that John Iburg of Hempstead took the pool on Sunday with a 42 lb. cod, while the runner-up was Richard Hausen of Long Beach with a 35 pounder. Saturday saw more people aboard than fish but the pool fish weighed in at 25 lbs. The fishing is generally slow but colder weather will improve on it. Smaller fish are moving in with the big fish.

ISLAND PARK

The flounders are getting better in all the channels, says Capt. Clem of the Commodore. The pool fish are about 1½ lbs. and they are getting bigger. The high hook on Sunday was 56 fish, with an average of 25 fish per man taken. The fishing looks good for the future as it has been holding steady for a week now.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller of Henning's Fishing Station reports the flounder fishing has been good most of the week. The Reynolds Channel area has been good east of the bridge along the docks. Duck Point seems to be the best spot, however, Leon says there are still quite a few throwbacks. Codfishing on the open bottom has been fairly good both close inshore at the McAllister Grounds and further offshore in 130 ft. of water. The fishing station will be open seven days a week until Christmas and then

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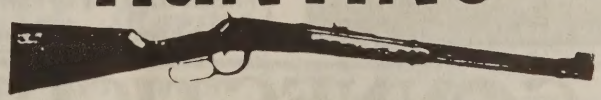

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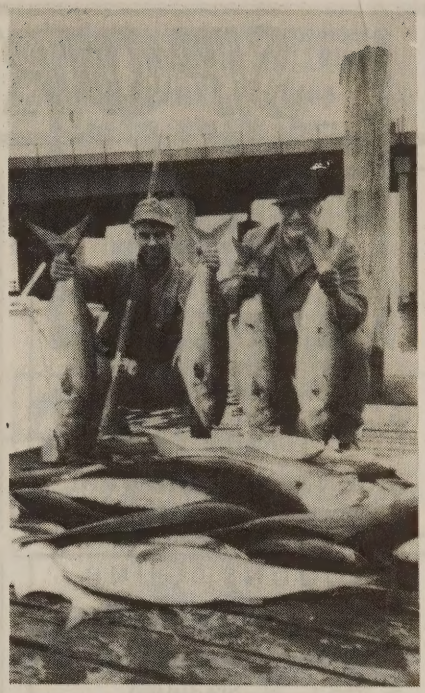
The Four Queens fished off Monmouth, N.J. for striped bass with Fred and Meta Hill, Hy Vogel and lure maker Don Bingler aboard. On Saturday Fred had fish of 44 and 25 lbs. along with fifteen other fish. On Sunday, Meta had a bass of 40½ lbs. Many other fish were taken.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Saturday provided a mixed bag for the Amberjack IV, said Capt. Fred Ardolino. They had half as many fish as they did fares. Sunday was better with a fish per man the average. Some of the cod went to 15 lbs. Capt. Fred checked the water temperature and found it is still over 60 degrees. A couple of cold days are needed to bring in the fish, with a week or two to get it moving and make it steady.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop had nothing to report as far as striped bass fishing on the beach is concerned. These fish seem to be offshore where the bait is concentrated. Flounder fishing is a hit and miss affair.



Queens Detective Dick Shambeck and Dr. Jerry Ferrara, of Brooklyn, pose with some of the 600 lbs. of bluefish which they took aboard Capt. Ronnie Lepper's Kim. The 12-15 lb. choppers hit a black Lupo umbrella rig.

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North Shore Report

NORTH SHORE

The North shore fishing is winding down. With an uneventful fall striped bass fishing season coming to a close, this past week seems to have spelled the end. The exception is the Plum Gut at the eastern end, which is giving up striped bass to those anglers with the patience to persist and the fortitude to brave the weather.

Blackfishing, with its brief season, made up for the poor performance shown by the striped bass. It seemed that everyone was able to get enough to satisfy themselves in this area. The proof of this was that many times we were told of people putting back small blacks under two pounds. It is heartening to hear these reports. It proves that many fishermen are heeding our pleas and are practicing good conservation measures. These anglers will be repaid in good measure every year. Hand in hand with the blackfish go the flounder, which should have a longer season. They have been a disappointment to everyone who went

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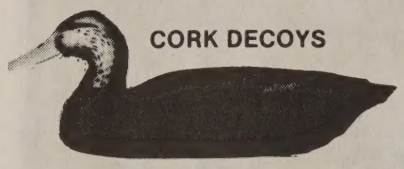

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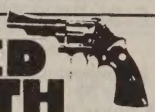

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Pete Solano of Richmond Hill, left, and mate Peter Zook hold up bluefish up to 16 lbs. which Pete caught aboard the Capt. Jim V out of Freeport at the Cholera Banks.

out for them. Some of this disappointment is also a direct result of many fishermen being lazy and expecting the boat liveries and tackle dealers to put them directly over fish. The people who did best were those who, when the usual areas did not produce, went elsewhere in search of the elusive flounder.

Although we have neared the end of fishing activity here on the North shore, do not put away your fishing gear. Some favorable weather and a little extra effort in the right places can still produce a catch or two of stripers, and maybe a flounder or two in some hole. Even if you catch nothing, the fresh air and relaxation will do you a world of good.

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(Continued from page 3.)

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The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs	7:45	**1:55**	8:05	**2:20**
Fri	8:35	**2:45**	8:55	**3:05**
Sat	9:20	**3:30**	9:40	**3:50**
Sun	10:05	**4:15**	10:25	**4:35**
Mon	10:50	**5:00**	11:10	**5:25**
Tues	11:40	**5:40**	11:50	**6:05**
Wed		**6:20**	12:20	**6:45**
Thurs	12:30	**7:05**	1:00	**7:35**

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1973 20' MAKO, 115 h.p. Evinrude, C.B., many extras. Excellent cond. Brooklyn (212) 998-4625 Evenings only.

BOATING EQPT

ATTENTION ALL BOAT OWNERS: Avoid possibe damage to your compass over the winter. Take advantage of this special winter service program. FREE inspection, external cleaning, and winter storage of all compasses: Authorized, 1 year guaranteed repair service available: Accurate repair estimates furnished: New & rebuilt compasses in stock. For personalized service and advise you can trust, call your COMPASS ADJUSTOR Jens Jacobs at NAUTICAL SERVICE, (516) 757-7169, the home of quality navigation instruments. Ask for your Club, or Organization discount on all compass repairs and new navigation instruments.

TUNA TOWER — 1 yr. old, with all morse controls & cables. Pacemaker steering mechanism. Direct hook-up to your flying bridge. Plus two 1 yr. old set of rockaway outriggers & two APN9 Lorans. Like new for sale. Call (516) 378-9070 or (516) 731-8098.

WINTER STORAGE for electronics. Get your radio or depth sounder back in Spring in A-1 shape. Call INEZ any day, any time. (516) 581-0194 Heine Marine Electronics, East Islip.

BOAT TRAILERS — CHASSIS HITCHES END OF YEAR SPECIAL: Chassis hitch installed on any car and one day trailer rental. Both for only $49.95. BARN TRAILER SVC. (212) 426-7039 or (212) 426-7042

ATTENTION BOAT OWNERS — Let us handle your boat. Hauling, launching & transporting to all points. Prompt, reliable service, special rates on clam boats. For reasonable rates call B & B BOAT TRANSPORT (516) 277-3440

TRAILER HITCHES the most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II Hitches in stock on L.I. Sales, Installation, Service, TOM CASH WELDING, Lk Ronkonkoma, (516) JU-8-6143

BUYING A BOAT? Professional licensed charter boat captain with 25 yrs. coastal boating experience will inspect boat & engine; evaluating your total investment for only $2.50 per ft. including a four page report for you, your insurance broker, or banker. Capt James W. Zook (516) RO-4-9677 Formerly of the U.S. Coast Guard, member of National Party Boatowners Alliance.

OBTAIN YOUR U.S. COAST GUARD LICENSE to carry passengers for hire. Personalized instructions, continuous classes. For further information, call Capt. Frank Bryant (516) 893-1498

ONE DAY SEMINAR to learn needed facts to take C.G. exam for Motorboat Operator. Cost: $40.00. Saturday, December 15th. 10:00 to 4:00. Send $20.00 deposit to Marine Associates, 130 Grand Avenue, Englewood, N.J. 07631.

FULL CANVAS for boat up to 19' for sale. Navy top, side curtains, aft curtain, all brand new. Call (516) 581-7573 after 5 p.m. $125

COLLAPSABLE FUEL TANKS of all sizes. Emergency life rafts. For full info call (516) 757-7169 any time.

ATTENTION FISHERMEN AND BOATMEN — Comprehensive instructions for obtaining your Coast Guard License to carry passengers for hire, both inshore and offshore. Classes now forming: Call Capt. James W. Zook at (516) RO-4-9677

MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED: Used Gill net in good condition. Suitable for bunker. We are willing to pay fair price. Call after 6 p.m. (212) 945-2290

FOR SALE: Olympic AM-FM/Stereo radio-phono combination console. Good cond. $40. Also Magnavox 21" TV & Hi-Fi combo. Good cond. $45 (516) 223-6135.

PURE BRED BEAGLE PUPPIES — Hunting Stock $25. (516) 667-6858 After 6 p.m.

RESTAURANT, BAR, MARINA, ROWBOAT STATION. South Shore. Building property, 5½ room apt. All stone. All 5 years old. Year round living. $120,000 Must have $75,000 cash. Approx. 150' waterfront. Write: Long Island Fisherman, Att. S. Miller, Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729

2 New 1973 JEEP WAGONEERS, Non-Quad-Trac in stock. Automatic, full power. Perfect vehicle for beach use. New York's Largest Dealer. First in Sales, Service, Parts. Come see why. LONG ISLAND JEEP, Inc. Est. 1928. 1400 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont, N.Y. (516) 354-0267

JEEPS — GIGANTIC YEAR END CLEARANCE SALE NOW IN EFFECT. Immediate delivery all models — Low, low prices. CARSON & SCUDDER selling & SERVICING the jeeps of Long Island's fishermen since 1956. Carson & Scudder AMC Jeep, 60 New York Ave., Huntington, N.Y. (516) HA-7-0270

EXCLUSIVE LISTING — Working Boatyard & Marina. Approx. 300' Peconic River, Riverhead. Approx. 10,000 sq. ft. buildings. Priced right. Terms available. Other property avail. Call B. Wood (516) 928-3859

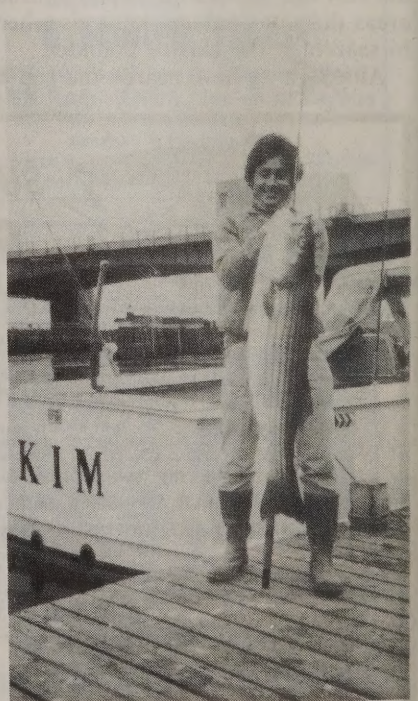
2 MAN 12' DUCK BOAT. Converted 1971 MFG. Decked over. Thatch rails & extras. Also nice for flounder & bass $150 (516) 799-4867.

FISHING TACKLE

MACKEREL GALORE: 4 & 5 at a time. 2 rigs $1. Other lures. Free list. A. Reilly, Box 21, Rosedale, NY 11422

TANDEM HOOK FLUKE RIG. Start catching those fluke that bite short and miss your hook! Hand tied tandem-hook rig puts a hook where strip-baits are normally bitten off by fluke. Send $3 for 3 rigs and directions on how to tie your own to avoid paying this ridiculous price to: Scott Simons, 152 Edmunton Drive Apt. 16D, North Babylon, N.Y. 11703

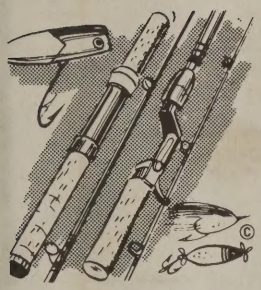
FLOUNDER TIME — Get those fat fall flounder on new 3-hook killer-rig. Special feature helps keep snelled hooks from tangling. Get the fish before the Russians do. $.75 per rig — 3 for $2.00 — 5 for $3.00 — 10 for $5.00. Write P.Miller 150 Babylon Tnpk. Merrick, N.Y. 11566.



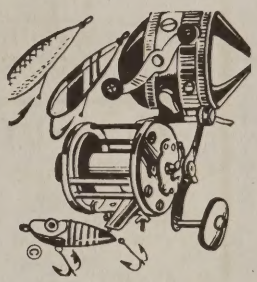
John Levitt of Medford caught this 33 lb. bass on a Lupo black semi-umbrella on the charter boat Kim.

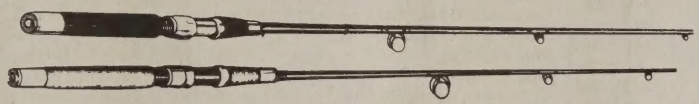
TURN YOUR UNUSED OR NO LONGER WANTED EQUIPMENT INTO CASH!!

ADVERTISE IN

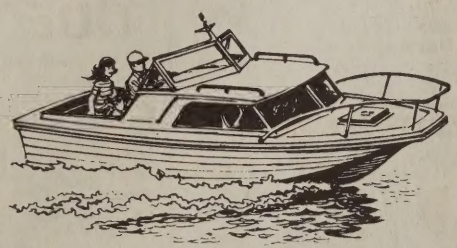


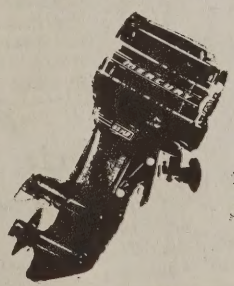
The Long Island FISHERMAN CLASSIFIED

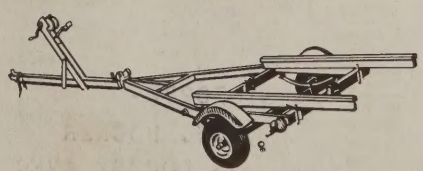




YOUR AD WILL REACH OVER 70,000 FELLOW SPORTSMEN IN THE L.I. METROPOLITAN AREA







TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE L.I. FISHERMAN CALL (516) 667-6636

DO IT NOW!

HIGH TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
THURSDAY	10:15	10:44	11:51		1:19	1:27	1:43	1:55
FRIDAY	10:57	11:29	12:42	12:38	1:59	2:10	2:25	2:41
SATURDAY	11:42		1:29	1:29	2:42	2:59	3:16	3:32
SUNDAY	12:18	12:31	2:25	2:24	3:31	3:50	4:04	4:23
MONDAY	1:09	1:23	3:14	3:21	4:22	4:44	4:56	5:19
TUESDAY	2:00	2:22	4:03	4:18	5:19	5:43	5:50	6:14
WEDNESDAY	3:00	3:23	4:48	5:12	6:13	6:42	6:41	7:09
THURSDAY	4:01	4:27	5:35	6:04	7:10	7:43	7:32	8:02

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0	50
Shinnecock Bay	+1	25
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05
MORICHES INLET	−0	56
Smith's Point	+3	28
Harts Cove	+1	30
Potunck Point	+3	35
Mastic Beach	+3	28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0	38
(Inlet,Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0	38
Coast Guard Station	−0	19
Fire Island Light	+0	47
GREAT SOUTH BAY		
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3	39
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
Bay Shore	+2	23
Babylon	+2	12
Amityville	+2	21
JONES INLET	−0	19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
Freeport Creek	+0	34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0	00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0	38
JFK Airport	+0	26
STATEN ISLAND	+0	27
MANASQUAN	−0	12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0	14
Fort Pond Bay	−0	29
Montauk Inlet	−0	25
Montauk Point	−1	13

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0	10
Execution Light	−0	06
Manhasset Bay	−0	01
Hempstead Harbor	−0	11
City Island	−0	03
Rye Beach	−0	28

PHASES OF THE MOON

11/24	11/3	11/10	11/17
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	−0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	+0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0	08
Herod Point	−0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	+0	20
Truman Beach	−0	42

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

TO

030272-
E.W. HOCKER
53 LOCUST AVE.
ISLIP, N.Y. 11751